



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Summary

Mid-County Regional Services Center, 2424 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD

Call to Order:	Francisco Romero, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Oriole Saah, Secretary		
Date/Time:	February 21, 2017; 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjogah, Mensah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mozzano, Louis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rowden, David
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bonilla, Luis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neuringer, Jason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saah, Oriole (Secretary)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Newman, Rick (Vice Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shoenberg, Robert <small>(Parliamentarian)</small>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank, Ron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reed, Patrick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tankersley, Judy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mansori, Hasan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Romero, Francisco (Chair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant
Staff:	Luisa Montero, Director, Mid-County Regional Services Center					
Guests:	Hans Reimer, Vice Chair, County Council Kathy Mitchell, Senior Legislative Aide for Councilmember Reimer Paola Berridi, Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County Alex Girr, M-NCCP Cristina Sasaki, Public Spaces, M-NCCP Brooke Farquahar, Dept of Recreation Jeffrey Bourne, Dept of Recreation Carl Morgan, CIP, M-NCCP Alex Metry, Boys Scout Mr. Metry, Boys Scout Molly Scott, resident Susan Rich, resident Linda Amendt, resident					

Please note: This is a draft until approved by the MCAAB

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Francisco Romero

Agenda – Approved unanimously

Minutes – Approved with corrections, one abstention.

Guest Speaker: Councilmember Hans Reimer, Vice Chair

County Executive submitted Capital (CIP) budget.

County Executive due to submit his FY 18 operations budget on March 15.

Council will complete work and approve a budget by mid-May.

(1) Current Council Activities and Highlights:



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Bethesda sector plan – demand for housing. Vision for central civic space downtown.

Minimum wage bill – Amendments made to accommodate concerns of County Executive & business community but Leggett did not sign.

Focus on immigration policies – county law enforcement does not enforce ICE.

Early childhood education – looking at out-of-school time / Pre K / child care / after school.

Council studying universal all-day Pre K . County analysis shows that 7 of 10 low income students start behind peers. Expansion of Pre K for families at or below 200% of Federal Poverty for four year-olds, some three year olds. Would cost \$20m over five years, \$4m this year. Would cover 5 year olds who don't make deadline (due to birth date) to start Kindergarten.

STEM – Kids Museum – would like to bring facility to Wheaton Woods. 12:30 STEM summit @ Silver Spring Civic Center

Bike Ways Master Plan – look at vision for Wheaton area. More people would like to ride if it were safer.

State legislation to lower residential speed limit to 20 – committee meeting in 2 weeks, working with state delegation.

Sub Division Staging Policy – White Oak transportation -- # for bike infrastructure, new development makes bike/walk/drive, not just drive, a focus.

Questions & Discussion:

Q: Would early childhood education include five year olds who remain in Pre-K due to the birthday cutoff to start Kindergarten?

A: Yes.

Q: STEM – concern that emphasis on STEM is creating the equivalent future factory workers doing low tech, repetitive IT work. Concerned about under-employment.

A: 30,000 cyber security jobs currently unfilled in Maryland. Not everyone knows how to get on the path to STEM. Desire to expose less advantaged students from lower income homes to the opportunities, stay on cutting edge.

Q: Using Pre-K – Need expansion of child care providers. Strategic plan for 2017 requirements for trainees are stricter. How do you balance?

A: Additional requirements are coming from the State. Providers are not seeing a rise in quality of care and keeping employees eligible. Child Care Strategic Plan comes out next few weeks. Part6 time program for Head Start will change to full day. Need to assess how to work with private providers. Not free but affordable. Focus first on population not getting care at all.

Q: Al Carr's HB 348 – staggering elections. Thoughts?

A: Believe overriding concern is

1. Some council members are elected in Presidential election years with higher voter turnout



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2. Term Limits – at large council members are vacating – staggering council terms would allow for some continuity.

Q: What is current status of bus depot relocation plan and status of Avery Road sight?

A: Leggett working to lock down a site. Recommended repurposing multiple sites. Carver met with opposition. Council requested fresh ideas. Final decision rests with Council. Not sure what Leggett will propose yet.

Q: Concern about students coming from private pre-school & being ahead of peers. Looking at options. Advanced programs are limited – why not more options?

A: Council passed funds dedicated to class size reduction. But class size isn't the issue. How do we make families happy with district schools? How to offer more opportunity to go out of the district? Speak to your PTA, your school's principal.

Q: Nowhere to lock bikes at Wheaton Regional Park.

A: Park staff (present) noted need and will look into it.

Q: Property Tax Relief of 20% for elderly (long-time homeowners), vets. Is this something new? Does new legislation negate other, existing programs?

A: State legislature seeing a way for counties to lower property taxes for 40 year + residents and retired military – up to \$650,000 home value. Bill goes before Council next week.

Q: Let educators know that STEM can be broken down to different levels. Not everyone needs to go to college. Make students aware of other work force opportunities. STEM helps in modern manufacturing, as well.

A: Thank you.

Q: Two comments: 1) Wheaton is hard to navigate on foot. 2) Plan to get information out to the public? Hard to find meeting information. How do residents get involve with the community? Council meetings are during the day so hard for people with jobs to attend.

A: Montgomery County is large with multiple types of communities. The various Commissions, Boards & Committees help shape policy. Also, email council members. Committees and Advisory groups bring government to people. Also, use social media & email to communicate with elected officials.

Pedestrian infrastructure – making improvements. Example is Reddie Drive. Working with state highways. Enhanced bus system may include sidewalk infrastructure. Give suggestions to Luisa or email Hans Riemr directly.

Q: We need Council Staff to attend MCCABB meetings and keep us in the loop with legislation & activities.

A: Yes.

Guest Speaker: Paola Berridi, Conflict Resolution of Montgomery County

CRNC is available to anyone who works, resides, or is affiliated with Montgomery County.

Services are neutral, confidential, and voluntary. Not legal representation – goal is to reach a common ground.



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Guest Speaker: MNCPP and County Dept of Recreation employees

“Parks & Recreation of the Future – Voice Your Vision”

Please urge your neighbors to take their survey. They are trying to obtain as much community input as possible

Focus on:

1. Recreation & open spaces
2. Public space master plan
3. CIP

Rec schedule now available on the website.

Mark: adding new sport spaces & sunset some (see presentation).

PROS = parks, recreation, & open space

Jeff Bourne – Montgomery County Department of Recreation

Brenda Samburg – Legacy Open Spaces, 15 year master plan. Energized public spaces master plan in progress – more people, living in more places with more interests. Promoting social interaction. Developing new methodology with pilot focus on Silver Spring.

Carl Morgan – CIP

Q: Can you send the presentation to Luisa Montero for including in the Mid -County e-newsletter and on MCCAB website?

A: Yes.

Q: Update on Wheaton Regional Master Plan?

A: Email Dominic. On hold – not related to new process

Q: Impact on FY18 operating budget?

A: Make successions and they will be parsed out by staff to operations or CIP budget comments.

Q: How are projects prioritized?

A: Planning Board gives direction. New projects are added to a database that contains priority scoring. Comments reported to planning board for consideration to set strategy. Getting lots of input but money is limited. Can only defer projects for so long ...

Q: Where does county float bonds? Are they sold locally?

A: Use market in New York. More answers would come from the Finance Department.

Q: Process to acquire new land?

A: Areas targeted, matches sellers with needs. Focus on working relationships. Gill Greese manages this process and condemnation is rarely used.

Q: Park land near Georgia & Randolph?

A: In flux, not enough space for a full local park.

Please get the word out to the community to take the survey.



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- Q: Funding requirements?
A: Current CIP is #185,000.

Community Concerns: Alex Metry, Boys Scouts

Alex is earning a Merit Badge by observing community engagement. He spoke and praised the county for low crime rates, great Parks presentation. As a member of BSA, he visits and uses many local parks.

Director Report

- Wheaton Redevelopment – Look at WUDAC minutes.
- Westfield Wheaton Plaza – taking lead on safety task force, also includes WMATA, MCPD, civic associations, others. First meeting will be next week.
- February 22 Views Mill BRT & connectivity meeting will be at Sargent Shriver Elementary School.
- Chamber Awards – nominations due for March meeting, when we will vote.

Committee Reports

Quality of Life – Committee proposed a one sentence “thank you” letter to County Executive and County Council regarding joint statement on the safety of immigrant residents in Montgomery County.

Motion to call the question and end discussion, no second.

Motion to extend meeting to 9:15, seconded. Approved.

Vote to adopt letter:	In favor:	7
	Against:	2
	Abstain:	1

Land Use, Transportation, & Zoning –

BRT meeting – February 22

Parks – Nextdoor discussion of English Manor park in disrepair. David will follow up with today’s speakers.

Recommended putting a link to the survey on Nextdoor sites.

Liaison Reports

Tabled due to lack of time.

Old Business:

Letter regarding property tax legislation: no time to finalize, approve, send a letter.



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New Business:

Economic development/work force microloan legislation: letter proposed. Action expected in early March so no time to go back to the Committee.

Motion: approve letter with request that Louis & Francisco rewrite paragraph #2 per discussion, second.

Vote to adopt letter with amendments:	In favor:	11
	Against:	0
	Abstain:	0

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting approved at 9:15 pm.